

Serial No. 09/456,670

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus for forming an image based on image data inputted from an arbitrary image output apparatus, the image forming apparatus comprising:

- a first interface to which image data is inputted along with identification information which identifies an image output apparatus; and
- a second interface to which image data containing identification pattern which identifies an image output apparatus in a predetermined position is inputted,

wherein a confirming process for a first identification information in relation to image data inputted from the first interface is performed,

a confirming process for a second identification information in relation to image data inputted from the second interface is performed, and

process for an image formation based on the inputted image data is inhibited in a case where identification information of the arbitrary image output apparatus is not confirmed in each confirming process for the identification information.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the confirming process for the first identification information is performed to confirm whether or not identification information is inputted along with the image data for a predetermined period of time, and the confirming process for the second identification information is performed to confirm whether or not an identification pattern exists in a predetermined position of the image data.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 12, wherein the confirming process for the second identification information further includes a process for confirming whether or not the identification information is inputted

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separately from the image data, in a case where the identification pattern does not exist in a predetermined position of the image data.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the image forming process is performed by adding an image of the identification pattern which is created based on the identification information which is confirmed in the confirming process for the first identification information to the image data which is inputted from the first interface.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus of claim 14, wherein the image of identification pattern indicating identification information which specifies the image forming apparatus itself is created, and the image formation is performed so as to add the image of identification pattern to the image data which is inputted from the first interface.